(c) what action Government is taking to ensure the availability of all medicines required in these centres; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The provision of medicines in Primary Health Centres and Sub Centres is a subject matter of State Government. Further records of day-to-day activities such as availability of medicines etc. is not maintained by this Ministry.

(c) and (d) Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) Union Ministry of Health and Family welfare releases funds for augmentation and upgradation of health infrastructure which includes provision for medicines at Sub Centres and Primary Health Centres also. The State Governments reflect their demand for funds in their annual Programme Implementation Plan under NRHM. Funds are released to them as per the approval of National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC).

Adulteration of essential food items

779. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of day-by-day reported increase of adulteration in drugs, food commodities, edible oil, ghee, milk, etc. throughout the country;

(b) if so, what steps the Union Government have taken so far for strict enforcement of "the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954" and rules made there under as local food Inspectors simply take samples of sold food commodities but do not check adulterated food items; and

(c) if so, what stringent measures Government proposes to take against such defaulters in this regard and the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration PFA Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 is entrusted to the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.T.s. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has informed that the Food (Health) Authorities of States/U.T.s have not reported increase of adulteration in food commodities. Samples of various food are taken regularly by the States/U.T.s Governments and action is taken from time to time in case of individual complaints of adulterated foods. The Food Health Authorities of States/U.T.s advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil by drawing more and more food samples of all commodities from all sources *viz.* manufacturer, wholesalers and retailers and to take penal action against the offenders under the provisions of PFA Act, 1954.

So for adulteration in drugs is concerned. The following steps have been taken by the Government to prevent manufacture and sale of adulterated drugs in the country:

1. The Drugs and Cosmetic Act has been amended *vide* Gazette notification dated December 2008, to increase the penalty and punishment of spurious drugs manufacturing.

2. A Committee has been formed in 39th Drugs Consultative Committee (DCC) to look into the problems of spurious drugs in the country.

3. In order to assess the extent of spurious drugs in the country, a country wide Survey has been undertaken by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare through Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

4. Under the Capacity Building Project through World Bank, assistance has been provided to upgrade testing facilities and to establish new drug testing laboratories so as to enhance the capacity of the laboratories to test large number of samples. Under this project 23 States and 6 Central Drugs Laboratories have been strengthened through renovations, extensions and equipments.

5. Schedule M to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, pertaining to Good Manufacturing Practices was amended to make it at par with the International standards and it is mandatory for the manufacturers of drugs to comply with the requirements of this Schedule for quality control of the drugs manufactured by them.

6. Detailed guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to undertake focused surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs.

(c) The PFA Act, 1954 stipulate imprisonment of six months to life imprisonment depending upon the gravity of offence awarded by the courts. In case of samples of food found adulterated or not conforming to the standards, action is taken under the PFA Act, 1954 by the States/U.T.s Governments.

Status of drug smuggling cases

780. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many drug smuggling cases were caught by different appointed Government agencies in the country during the last three years State-wise;

(b) what quantity of drugs was seized in such operations, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) how many persons were arrested and cases booked against them and awarded punishment during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) how many cases are still pending in different Courts, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.